

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference I17501WO-LDH/mf	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/001298	International filing date (day/month/year) 25/03/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 31/03/2003
Applicant MINEBEA CO. LTD.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

A SPHERICAL BEARING ARRANGEMENT

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A bearing arrangement (1) comprising a spherical bearing (2) having a bearing housing (3) and a ball (4) located therein, the bearing housing (3) having a rigid outer race (5) and a rigid inner race (6) and an annular elastomeric portion (7) sandwiched between the races (5,6), wherein the outer race (5) of the bearing housing (3) is securely held in an interference fit hole (11).

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International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 F16C11/06 F16C27/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F16C F16F B60G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 364 191 A (GRUBER WALTER) 15 November 1994 (1994-11-15) column 3, line 16 - line 65; figure 1	1, 4-6, 8
X	US 5 033 722 A (LAMMERS BRYAN G) 23 July 1991 (1991-07-23) column 3, line 24 - column 6, line 8; figure 1	1, 5, 8
X	US 3 125 364 A (R.W.SPRINGER) 17 March 1964 (1964-03-17) column 2, line 3 - line 59; figure 2	1, 7, 8
X	GB 1 360 515 A (SAITAMAKIKI CO LTD) 17 July 1974 (1974-07-17) page 2, line 29 - line 62; figure 2	1, 7, 8
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

A document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/08/2004

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International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>EP 0 781 932 A (MINEBEA KK) 2 July 1997 (1997-07-02) column 4, line 31 - column 5, line 36; figures 6,8 -----</p>	1-3

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/001298

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5364191	A	15-11-1994	DE 4216559 A1 BR 9301678 A DE 59206871 D1 EP 0570625 A2 JP 6137317 A	25-11-1993 23-11-1993 12-09-1996 24-11-1993 17-05-1994
US 5033722	A	23-07-1991	CA 2020471 A1	22-02-1991
US 3125364	A	17-03-1964	NONE	
GB 1360515	A	17-07-1974	JP 47003168 U	02-09-1972
EP 0781932	A	02-07-1997	JP 9177778 A EP 0781932 A1	11-07-1997 02-07-1997